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In the Specification:

Page 1, cancel the paragraph entitled "Cross-Reference to Related Application" (inclusive of the section title).

Insert the following new paragraph immediately after line 1:

This is a 371 of PCT/US99/22756, international filing date September 30, 1999, which claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Ser. No. 60/102,640, filed October 1, 1998. The entire disclosure of the aforesaid provisional application is incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 11 and 12.

Rewrite claims 5-7, 14, 15, 17 and 24 as follows. A mark-up of the original claims, showing the changes, is contained in Appendix A hereto.

5. (*amended*) A nucleotide sequence encoding a mutant polypeptide according to claim 4.

6. (*amended*) A nucleotide sequence according to claim 5 which comprises the nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:2.